

Maryland Legislators Receive Nonpartisan Report Card on their Business & Economy Votes

Maryland Business for Responsive Government Publishes 31st Edition of Roll Call

COLUMBIA, Md., Sept. 7, 2016 – Maryland Business for Responsive Government ([MBRG](#)), a statewide, nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to holding state legislators accountable for Maryland’s business climate and economic health, has released the [2016 results](#) from its annual publication Roll Call.

Each year, MBRG’s State Advisory Council selects recorded votes from the most recent General Assembly session that are essential to create jobs and promote a healthy business climate throughout Maryland. MBRG identifies these bills in Roll Call and analyzes the votes to produce a score for each legislator.

This year, 14 Senators and 29 Delegates received perfect scores of 100%, whereas 2 Senators and 31 Delegates scored below 30%.

The most improved Democrats were Delegates Sheree Sample-Hughes, Jill Carter, and Pamela Beidle, who improved from 43% to 50%, 33% to 40%, and 57% to 64%, respectively (7-point increases); and Senator Delores Kelley, who improved 30 points, from 20% to 50%.

The most improved Republicans were Delegates Wendell Beitzel and Jason Buckel, both receiving 29-point increases from 71% in 2015 to 100%, and Senator Bryan Simonaire, whose score improved 33 points from 67% to 100% .

Last year’s edition of Roll Call commended the legislative session for taking a step in the right direction with five bills that implemented recommendations from the bipartisan Augustine Commission, while introducing relatively fewer bad-for-business bills than in prior years.

“There were some disconcerting bills introduced in the 2016 legislative session that can be very detrimental to the business climate, employment, and overall economy of Maryland. Some of those bills passed, some were defeated, and - thankfully - others did not make it out of their respective committees,” said Duane Carey, MBRG President. “We’re very concerned that those rejected bills will show up again in the next session. We hope that Marylanders will look past

the innocuous or even encouraging names of these bills and hold their legislators accountable for what is actually in them...what their actual effects will be.”

For the 2016 analysis, Roll Call analyzed 7 Senate votes and 13 House votes.

About Maryland Business for Responsive Government (MBRG)

MBRG is a statewide, nonpartisan political research and education organization supported by corporations, trade associations, chambers of commerce, and individuals. Its purpose is to inform Maryland’s business community, elected officials, and the general public about the political and economic environment needed to foster economic development and job creation in Maryland. Annual evaluations of the voting records of Maryland’s state and federal legislators enable MBRG and its members to hold politicians accountable for the state’s economic well-being like no other organization.

About Roll Call

Roll Call is compiled by an independent advisory council of roughly 18 organizations (companies, chambers of commerce, and other business and trade organizations) involved in the 90-day session in Annapolis. The purpose of Roll Call is to educate, inform, and empower Maryland employers, business owners, and others to engage in a dialogue with elected officials on issues critical to a healthy economic development climate in Maryland. MBRG has been issuing its annual report card for 30 years.

The 2016 edition of Roll Call can be downloaded at www.MBRG.org/Roll-Call.

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